

**Case 3070*****Phrynus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843 (Arachnida, Amblypygi):  
proposed precedence of the specific name over *Phalangium reniforme*  
Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Phrynus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843 for a species of whip spider from Sri Lanka (family PHRYNICHIDAE) by giving it conditional precedence over the senior subjective synonyms *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772. The senior synonyms have confusingly been applied to various taxa.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amblypygi; PHRYNICHIDAE; *Phrynichus*; *Phalangium*; *Phrynichus ceylonicus*; *Phalangium reniforme*; *Phalangium lunatum*; whip spider; Sri Lanka.

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1. Koch (1843, p. 35; pl. 336, fig. 776) described a species of whip spider (family PHRYNICHIDAE) from 'East India and Ceylon' on the basis of a large female specimen (holotype specimen number ZMHB 820 in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität Berlin) and named it *Phrynus ceylonicus*.

2. He was unaware that Linnaeus (1758, p. 619) had already described this species on the basis of a slightly smaller but otherwise identical female specimen that he thought was from 'America' and had named *Phalangium reniforme*. The specimen is still present in the Uppsala University Zoological Museum, where it has the specimen number 234. In addition, Pallas (1772, p. 35; pl. 3, figs. 3, 4) had also described this species and given it the name *Phalangium lunatum*. This means that *Phrynus ceylonicus* is a junior subjective synonym of both *Phalangium reniforme* and *Phalangium lunatum*. The type species of the genus *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 918) is *P. opilio* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 918) by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810, p. 425).

3. However, both the names *Phalangium reniforme* and *P. lunatum* have been used at various times by various authors in relation to neotropical and oriental species of the PHRYNIDAE and PHRYNICHIDAE other than the species to which the names were first given by Linnaeus and Pallas (e.g. Fabricius, 1793, pp. 432–433; Lichtenstein & Herbst, 1797, pp. 71, 79; Koch, 1840, p. 12; Latreille, 1806, p. 129; Gervais, 1844, p. 5; Blanchard, 1852, p. 170; Butler, 1873, p. 118).

4. Karsch (1879, p. 197) introduced the generic name *Phrynichus* and designated *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species. He noted that *Phalangium reniforme* represented a species from Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

5. As a result of the different usage of the name *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and the uncertainty of the identity of the species, later authors used the name *reniforme* only to cite the type species of the genus *Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879 (e.g. Gravely, 1915a, p. 447; Simon, 1936, p. 295).

6. The name *Phrynus ceylonicus* (C.L. Koch), however, has been used consistently only for the large and common species from Sri Lanka (e.g. by Gervais, 1847, p. 564; Simon, 1892, p. 50; Gravely, 1915a, p. 526, 1915b, p. 449; Werner, 1935, pp. 472, 476; Millot, 1938, p. 847; Weygoldt, 1995, p. 76, 1998, p. 19, 2000, p. 37; Weygoldt & Hoffmann, 1995, p. 2). I propose that the specific name *Phrynus ceylonicus* that is in use for a species of whip spider from Ceylon should be given conditional precedence over the names *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772 (the usage of both of which has been confused) in accord with Article 81.2.3 of the Code. Commission approval will mean that if the three names are considered to be synonyms, *Phrynus ceylonicus* becomes the valid name.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, precedence over the names *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, and *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be conspecific;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879 (gender: masculine), type species by designation by Karsch (1879) *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758;
  - (b) *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810) *Phalangium opilio* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the names:
  - (a) *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the names *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, and *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be conspecific;
  - (b) *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms (specific name of the type species of *Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879);
  - (c) *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (d) *opilio* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium opilio* (specific name of the type species of *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758).

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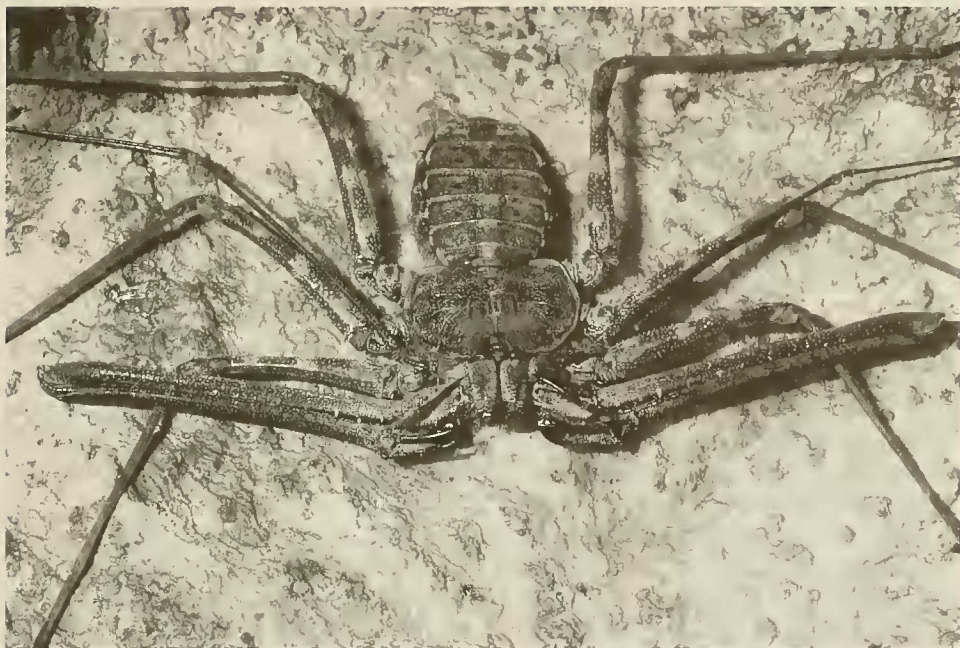
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*Phrynichus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843. Living female from Sri Lanka.